THE WESTERN FARMER AND GARDENER;

DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, AND RURAL ECONOMY.

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Portraits of Sheep,

The property of Mr. George Smith, near Carthage, Ohio.

We are this month enabled to vary the subjects of our illustrations, and have here a very beautiful engraving by Foster, of a pure-bred, imported South-down Ewe; and of a Ewe whose dam was a pure imported South-down, and her sire an imported Bakewell. The latter is represented with a lamb at her foot, two or three days old—the former dropped a pair of fine lambs within a few days after her portrait was sketched.

Mr. Smith is one of the few individuals in the west, who have turned their attention to the breeding of the finer and improved varieties of sheep—unless, indeed, the Merinos and Saxons—they are now to be found in great numbers in some parts of the country. Mr. Smith has acquired quite a stock, both of sheep and of Berkshire hogs, (see the pedigrees of his hogs, in our last number's cover,) and is now turning his attention to the breeding of both for sale. So much pleased were we ourselves, with his young sow "Madam," that we were induced to make her ours, to the tune of *one hundred dollars*. He has now ten or twelve imported South-down ewes, the greater number of which have brought him twin lambs this spring—several ewes, a cross of the Cotswold and of the Bakewell or New Leicester, on the Downs—and some 25 or 30 half and three-quarter breds.

The South-downs may be taken as the model of the "hill-sheep"—they have "a patience of occasional short keep, and an endurance of hard stocking, equal to any other sheep; an early maturity, scarcely inferior to that of the Leicester, and the flesh finely grained, and of peculiarly good flavor." The wool of this breed "is short, close, curled, and fine, and free from spiry projecting fibres." The greater part of the fleece is, on assorting, "thrown into the *picklock*, the *prime*, or the *choice*, or *super* copartments"—the greater part of the wool, not from Merino or Saxony sheep, now shorn in the west, would find its way, we fear, into some one of the six inferior sorts.

The cross of the Bakewell and South-down forms a large, handsome, and in every way superior animal—with a much greater weight of fleece, and of a longer, though not so fine a staple—but requiring, at same time, better keep.

We would particularly solicit for the Farmer, a series of essays on Sheep as farming stock, and the adaptation of the different breeds, to the various regions of the west. T. A.

Notes from Kentucky, by the Junior Editor.

(Continued from page 120.)

Dr. Martin was kind enough to ride with me, during the week, to almost every farm within reach, where there was stock of any kind to be seen—and a most valuable pilot he is, on such an errand.

At Mr. Jno. Pendleton Taylor's, we saw a superior cow, of Dr. M.'s importation in 1839, and now owned by Mr. T. and himself. She, "Beauty," is an "A. No. 1." Mr. T. has also some good Woburns, and a fine calf from Beauty by Bertram 4th, only a few hours old when I saw it.

At Mr. James Taylor's, there is another of the Dr.'s importation, "Virginia;" some good heifers and the bull

"Blockley," who ranks with me as one of the best bulls I saw.

At Mr. Isaac Van Meeter's we found what remains of the noted "Phyllis," now alas! but a wreck—she has become diseased. She was, in her day, a most superior animal. A Hereford cow, and an old cow of the '17 stock, attracted me—but the fine heifer "Hannah More," pleased me better; as did also a handsome bull-calf. We here entered that magnificent property owned by Capt. Cunningham and his son-in-law, Mr. Van Meeter. Here we have the blue-grass pastures of Kentucky in great beauty and perfection. Just think of nearly 3000 acres, clothed even at this season, with an abundant coat of green grass, in which you sink as in a snow wreath! The woods cleared of their undergrowth, and of all timber that is not really valuable—nothing left but fine, tall sticks of blue-ash, black-walnut, etc.—divided into lots of 200 or 300 acres of gently undulating land, with a soil as rich and as deep as man could desire, and generally speaking well watered! Just think of all this, and of these noble pastures covered with such cattle as are only to be found in any great numbers, in the interior of this state—horses and mules in scores, all fat and in fine order, none of which are ever fed a mouthful of grain or fodder, unless when the ground is covered with snow! The fences good, with gates between each enclosure, well-made and well-hung, so that they open with ease and shut of themselves—an immense convenience when one is crossing the country on horseback. The men all friendly, hospitable, and jovial—and the ladies—but I must "leave the girls alone," or I shall never get along!

I have rarely seen a more beautiful situation than that on which Capt. Cunningham's house is built—overlooking great part of his farm. The old gentleman rode out with us, to see his stock. Here I found "Goldfinder" and several of his get. In form he somewhat resembles his near kinsman, "Hector," and is altogether a fine animal. With a sight of him and of "*Catharine Tirley*," "Eliza Woods," "Young Mary," and some "Oliver" cows of Mr. Warfield's, I felt myself well repaid for my journey, had I seen nothing more. Mr. C.'s young stock too is very promising.

Mr. Abr. Renwick is the son of one of the earliest improvers of stock in Kentucky, and still has some fine ones on the farm—a good, and an indifferent bull; his cows and heifers, and a young bull calf, all fair. Saw no hogs of any improved breed here—none but common.

We now rode over a beautiful country, to Mr. Hutchroft's. He, too, you may recollect, imported a lot of cattle, in 1889—improved short horns—five cows and two bulls. Of these, I saw only two cows and the very good bull "Van Buren." I consider him a superior animal. The day was so very cold that I did not go to see the others, which were at some distance. Here, that prince of horses, "Bertrand," spent the last few years of his life, and here he died.

We intended going to Mr. Gay's, and to some other breeders, in this region, but were compelled to defer it.

We called on Mr. Wm. R. Duncan, but owing to his absence from home, had to see what of his stock we could. He has a large flock of sheep, and a variety of hogs—one or two Berkshire pigs, and his premium sow, a cross of Berkshire and Irish Grazier—*white, with a single black spot*, friend Fanning—were good.

I now parted with my "Mentor," and proceeded alone by stage to Lexington, over a road on which there is some pleasure in travelling—and through a beautiful country. In this neighborhood I remained nearly a week.

At Mr. Wm. P. Curd's, of Hog-book celebrity, and amongst the other merry fellows, his neighbors, I enjoyed myself well. We "talked hog" most of the time—in fact, when in the very midst of as many prime ones as there are hereabouts, it would be hard to do otherwise. At friend Curd's I found

their honors "Ben Shaker" and "Daniel O'Connell," both very large, fine animals—"Billy Barlow" is no more—"Bay Bill" is in the fattening pen with several very fine barrows, some of them pure Berkshire, and others Berkshire and Irish. With old Ben is a barrow of his get, that would convince the veriest unbeliever in the improved breeds, and particularly the Berkshire—he is a splendid animal. Mr. Curd has one of the largest stock of brood-sows in the state—so large that you must not expect me to enumerate all. Still, I may mention "Princess," "Priscilla," "Lilly of Geneva," and "Cinderella," as pleasing me more particularly. You have seen the portraits, (save the mark!) of them all, in Mr. C.'s Hog-book—they by no means do his animals justice: in fact, with all deference to the taste of my friend Curd, and the artist, I consider them, for the most part, mere caricatures! His stock is too good, however, to receive any serious injury from such a cause. By the way, those Irish Graziers (the name "*Grazier*" I look on as a misnomer) are better hogs in every way than I expected to find them—large, thrifty brutes, but rather lacking breadth of back and ham. Mr. C.'s hog-yard was badly arranged, but I left him at work on extensive improvements.

Mr. Edward Allen showed me the sow he ordered of A. B. Allen of Buffalo. She is, though a good hog, altogether inferior to Mr. A.'s others, "Marigold" and "Superior"—and shows to poor advantage beside them and his boars, which are both prime. He too has some fine full-bred barrows in the fattening pen, that promise well.

At Mr. Richard Allen's (of Fayette) I saw the best *large* Berkshire sow that I have ever met with—"Great Western." She was purchased by Mr. A. of Mr. Jno. Lossing of N. York, and is really a finely formed animal—but I should fear that her great size has been gained at the expense of her power of breeding. Here too I found the noted '17 cow "Cleopatra," and that beautiful imported heifer "Avarilda." I had considerable curiosity to see "Cleopatra"—fine animals of that stock, pure-bred, are getting somewhat scarce; she fully comes up to the high opinion I had formed of the pure Durhams of '17.

We rode over to Mr. John Allen, Senr's, and had a look over his stock and very pretty farm—it is evident that a tasteful female spirit has been at work here—the lawn, door-yard and garden all give evidence of the fact. And how pleasing it is to find, in this every-day-world, such proofs of a refined and feminine taste! And how little do men study their own comfort and happiness at home, when they either altogether refuse to assist their wives and daughters in thus rendering it cheerful and pleasing, or do so tardily and grumblingly! Here I found the $2000 imported cow "Princess," with several of her produce—all worthy of their dam. $2000 *does* seem a great price for a cow, but her owner cannot look on the beauty and say that he grudges it!

Mr. Richard Allen (of Jessamine co.) you recollect as the feeder of the big beeves. He is a Woburn hog man, and has some fine specimens—a very handsome, though rather small boar, a cross of Dr. Martin's White Berkshire and Neapolitan—a most beautiful young black Berkshire sow, an animal of remarkable finish but a doubtful breeder—another very large and well-fatted ox—his yoke of premium cattle, perfect pictures—a lot of short-horns, held in connection with Dr. Martin, including the bull "Oceola," the old cow "Burletta," several fine heifers and calves, all pleased me much, though the cattle were in altogether too poor condition. My visit to Mr. A. afforded me much gratification. I find him quite a student of nature, and one after my own heart.

I was anxious to have gone over to Mr. McClure's, to see his fine Jacks and old "Nancy Dawson," and the bull "Contention," both breeders of note, of the '17 stock, but could not possibly spare the time.

I now paid my second visit to Mr. Benj. Warfield, and took a very

leisurely examination of his large stock of short horns. His farm and his whole attention seem to be devoted to the breeding and rearing of these noble animals. Mr. Warfield has pursued a regular plan of scientific breeding, with the most successful results. There has been no chance work here; but the pedigrees of those animals which have been bred together, their form, etc., have been carefully compared and studied, and acted upon on scientific principles. Do not understand me to say that there are no other equally careful breeders in the state, or that they are even rare—but I do say, that during my ride I have seen some who acted in the most careless and inconsiderate manner—breeding their animals together without bestowing a thought on the subject, other than that of sending their cows to the *most noted* bull in their neighborhood, the one probably who had got the greatest number of premiums, (too often but a poor test, as the fine condition of the animal not unfrequently weighs farther with judges than the superiority of form,) thus inadvertently breeding near relations together, or animals with the same imperfections of form or constitution. I saw, some days ago, an instance of this, sufficiently glaring to convince any one—a full-bred Durham calf, *a perfect idiot!* I have heard of such instances before, but could scarcely believe that *they really existed*, until I saw this one—a most disgusting and sickening object it was, too much so for description. Hogs and sheep all suffer from this ill-judged in-and-in breeding.

But to return to Mr. Warfield's stock; a few hours spent amongst them is quite a treat. There are not only his thorough breds of the recent importations, but those of '17—and, still better, the produce of the cross between the two. I shall name but a few, and these almost all of the last named class—to specify a finer lot of cattle than Caroline, Ellen Ware, Frances Brashear, Mary Clay, and two heifers, whose names I forget, of any other breed or cross, would be a difficult task. Emma is now at Mr. Sullivant's in Ohio. I must not overlook the young imported bull by Cossack—he is going to take a lead amongst his compeers, I think. Mr. Warfield has quite a number of cows by Oliver, of various grades, all speaking volumes for the old fellow—the Goldfinders too and Matchems are fine. I hope to induce Mr. W. to become a correspondent of the Farmer, on the science of Breeding.

I now crossed over to Mr. J. G. Dunn's, son of the late Walter Dunn, a noted importer of fine cattle. This gentleman has inherited his father's enthusiasm in the cause, and continues to be an extensive breeder. Here I saw "Comet"—known better as "Dunn's Comet"—the sire of many *prime ones*, and he himself such as I expected to find him, from the celebrity he has acquired. There was a young bull in the same lot with him that I did not admire so much—a number of fine cows, amongst which I thought "Red Rose" probably stood pre-eminent—several fine heifers, including two extra-fine—some handsome calves—and a lot of half and three-quarter bred cows that are just what we want for every-day use; large, well-formed, and good milkers. But I shall give you a dissertation, by and by, on the improvement to be effected by the thorough bred improved Durhams and Berkshires on our common cattle and hogs—to effect which, we *must* keep up the improvement in the pure-breds. Mr. Dunn related to me the particulars of a singular and fatal disease that broke out amongst his calves last summer; but as I hope to get an article from his own pen on the subject, for the Farmer, I will pass it over for the present.

Hitherto I had been little amongst the breeders of fine horses, but now made my way to the farm of Mr. R. Pindell, where I found some "good 'uns." Mr. P. does a little in cattle and hogs; but his favorite stock is the horse, and—the dog—of which last he has got quite an assortment! He has seven or eight mares that are fine; and ten or twelve very promising colts by

Luzborough, Eclipse, Medoc, Zinganee; Bertrand, Monmouth Eclipse, and other noted nags. Mr. P. is one of the owners of the last named horse, and has promised us an engraving of him, for the Farmer, so soon as Troye can complete the portrait. Mr. P. feeds entirely upon chopped food, and speaks highly of the economy and advantage of so doing.

At Mr. Wm. A. Warner's I saw that immensely large animal "Hector," purchased by Mr. W. of Mr. Wm. Neff, of Cincinnati—his portrait too will be ready for an early number of the Farmer, when I will speak of him more fully. "White Rose," own sister to Mr. Bradford's Frederick, and two good imported heifers, were the principal animals I saw here. Mr. W. has also a number of Black Berkshires.

At Mansfield, the Hon. Henry Clay's farm, I saw that noble animal "Monarch"—the *Priam colt.* I could have gazed, and gazed, and still been willing to gaze on! He is a large, powerfully made mahogany-bay—of great power, with beautiful symmetry of form. But of this mighty horse; of all his acts and all that he hath done; of all the great ones of the earth that he hath overcome in fair and honorable strife, are they not written in the book of the Chronicles of the great Nags of the day—the New York Spirit of the Times! Some fine Medoc, Zinganee, and Glencoe colts, young Saxon bucks, Neapolitan, and Neapolitan and Berkshire hogs, closed the account here.

I rode over to the Messrs. Dudleys', but they were not at home, nor did I have an opportunity of seeing their stock.

At Mr. R. F. Dillard's I saw the old imported cow "Adelaide," the dam of many first-rates; a number of fine young full-breds—and some as handsome half-bred cows as I ever saw.

At his neighbor, Mr. C. R. Ferguson's, are two very beautiful cows, "Ella" and "Rosebud," and a heifer from Adelaide called "America." Mr. F. is a very careful feeder, and has his cows, if anything, in rather too good order. This I had occasion to find fault with, frequently in my route, both in cows and brood-sows. It is a dangerous rock to split on.

Mr. Calmes rode over with me to Mr. Smith's to see the imported bull "Carcass"—he is a very handsome animal, but so fierce that no one dare enter his lot. I should say that if in *exhibition-order*, he would be very hard to beat. Here too I got a glimpse of a fine cow ("Superior") and several good heifers—a pair, too, of remarkably large oxen, by "Accommodation," showing the advantage of blood very plainly.

At Mr. Calmes' I found some good stock—two imported cows, and some very promising young animals.

I now turned towards Frankfort, on my way home, and spent another day with Mr. R. W. Scott. This is one of the best ordered farms in the state. Mr. S. knows his business, and pursues it *as a business.* From a poor, worn-out, badly arranged farm, he has in a few years produced a place well worthy of a visit. His fences are good, with rows of locusts planted in the corners—an old road that intersected the property, and all his *very* poor points are also set in locusts—swampy places drained—poor tracts manured, some of which prove the good effects of manure on hemp, which I have heard doubted; all his fields improved in succession by clovering, etc., and all brought to good shape and size; and at each gate is a *painted number*, nailed in a conspicuous place, denoting the particular field; a fine fish-pond in his lawn, well stocked—a good garden-spot well laid off and fenced—the old orchard carefully pruned, scraped and manured—and a young one planted—his stock all in good order and well cared for—and, in short, the whole business of the farm carried on as it ought to be. His stock, the prime ones, are many of them descendants of his old '17 cow "Hetty," who has proved a mine of wealth to him. She is still alive, and now in calf by Constellation. Almost every animal of the full-breds, that he has, is

fine—there is "Ruby," and "Fair Maid," and "Florence," and—but I need not name all. His bull "Constellation," by Frederick, dam Lady Grey, is a superior animal—large and very heavy, well-formed, and has *proved* himself well. I am anxious for portraits of him, and the cows I named, for the Farmer. Mr. S. has a good jennet, a thorough-bred brood-mare with some colts, (particularly a two-year-old Medoc filly) and both Woburns and part blood Berkshires. He is improving his hogs rapidly.

During the few days I spent in Frankfort, I was not engaged amongst the stock—except one day I went out to

Mr. Williamson Bacon's to see "Monmouth Eclipse," and his other horse stock. Mr. B. has a private course and very extensive training stables, under the management of Mr. Robert S. Woodin. The young ones, for training, had none of them come in yet—but I saw the old horse in all his glory. I shall not speak of him until we give his portrait.

In Frankfort I saw the celebrated eastern racer, "Decatur"—he is now withdrawn from the turf, and will stand this season in Kentucky. He was very generally admired, and will meet with fair patronage. He is large and of fine form and substance—a blood sorrel, with a good deal of Eclipse about him.

I will now close my lengthy sketch, with a few remarks on matters and things in general!

(Conclusion in our next.)

"National American Society of Agriculture."

Messrs. Editors—You have probably seen several articles in the Cultivator, and other agricultural papers, upon this subject. And you have most likely already made up your minds, that if an association could be formed, which would unite all the friends of agricultural improvement in the United States into one strong bond of brotherhood, for the purpose of "*elevating the character and standing of the cultivators of the American soil*," by every possible means within the power and influence of such an association, that it would have a most happy effect upon the vital interests of the country.

You are well aware that a most wonderful spirit of improvement has been awakened by the individual efforts of a comparative few, within a short time. A few years since, and the project of establishing such a publication as yours, would have been looked upon as the folly of insanity. But now you find them in every state. The excitement of agricultural fairs has been the cause of the production of an immense amount of wealth.

We are a nation of excitable subjects—and but few of us but are fond of fame. We love popularity. It is nature and education that we should do so. Unfortunately for the permanent prosperity of the country, agriculture has not been considered popular; but a change is coming! Too many have looked for legislative aid to promote the cause—in fact to make popularity. This is beginning at the wrong end. "Now let us be sober, and rely on ourselves and our own resources." If we would make agriculture popular, the farmers themselves must make it so; and then you will find every legislature, both state and national, ready to aid us to the utmost. "But what is every body's business is nobody's business." Those who are awake to the importance of doing good, are scattered over a vast country, without union or concert of action, and are able to act only individually. What would be the effect of concentrating all our strength under one form—of bringing together annually into one National Congress of Farmers a great number of those leading spirits from every part of the Union; interchanging sentiments, and forming new acquaintance with men, measures, manners, customs and country!

Would not vast good come of it? Well then, can we not have such a national meeting, and a permanent National Agricultural Society?

The respected editors of the Cultivator acknowledge the benefit, but fear that the present time is premature.

Many others besides myself, look upon the present calm in political excitement as propitious. We are anxious, while upon the active stage of life ourselves, to see this great measure of usefulness begun. But however anxious we may be, we should not move in the matter without strong approbation of the friends of the cause. It is therefore most earnestly desired that you and your readers will speak out freely. Not upon the point of usefulness of a National Society, or how an

organization shall be effected—but whether it shall be undertaken during the present year or not.

I hope, my friends, that we shall have the satisfaction, either in such a meeting or some other, of becoming personally acquainted, before many years are past away.

I hope to be an occasional correspondent to your very neat little magazine. I am proud and happy to see it flourish, and am, most respectfully, your friend,

SOLON ROBINSON.

Lake Court House. Ia., 20th February, 1841.

So far from considering the present time unpropitious, we have repeatedly discussed the subject with the different public spirited farmers, who visit our sanctum, and have looked forward to the first lull in the political storm that has so long swept over our country, as the time when we shall agitate the establishment of an Agricultural and a Horticultural Society on a proper footing, in Hamilton county—and of a NATIONAL SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURE. All that we *can* do we *will* do; but we must insist upon every reader of the Farmer, who has an opinion on the subject, to express that opinion to us boldly and freely. We consider that the action of the farmers themselves, and the expression of their opinions, is much more effective than our own. We will gladly give our pages for the circulation of such articles as the above, from practical, thinking men. In Scotland we see the beneficial results arising from the establishment of a National Society—they hold their annual meetings each year in one of seven of the principal cities, thus giving to each district the advantage of the meeting alternately with the others. We could arrange it in the same manner here; for though the extent of our country is so vastly greater than that of Scotland, so are our habits of *locomotion*. If Mr. Robinson will prepare an address to the Agriculturists of the Union, explaining his views as clearly as possible, we will publish it in the Farmer, throw off an extra edition, and circulate it far and near. We would also be pleased to hear from those zealous supporters of the measure, Messrs. Jas. M. Garnett and F. H. Gordon. T. A.

Trotting Horses.

Within a few years past, trotting horses have become the favorites in and about Cincinnati, and many fine ones have been trained here, in addition to the crack nags brought from the east. There are a good many who can do their mile in three minutes and under, and there are some young ones now in training whose owners hope the most flattering things of them. Although far from underrating the thorough bred running horse, we would yet be pleased to see more of our farmers breeding their best mares to horses of more power and substance than is common in those thorough bred horses standing at a price within the reach of the generality of farmers. We will gladly publish a list of the horses standing in Hamilton and the adjoining counties, if their owners will hand them in to us. The only ones we know of are "American Boy," at the Buckeye course, and "Lafayette Stockholder"—the former said to be "the sire of some of the fastest trotters in the Union," and whose pedigree will be found on our cover—and the latter a thorough bred of very great power, by Stockholder, he by Sir Archy, and now standing at the residence of his owner, Mr. James T. Berry, near Newport, Ky. We know several of his get, which are all good, and command high prices. There are several colts by American Boy in the stable with him, that are said to be very fine, and to give promise of great speed as trotters.

But there is yet another variety of the horse which we wish to see introduced amongst us, and of which we will speak more at length in our next.

T. A.

For the Western Farmer and Gardener.

Sweet Potatoes.

Neville Farm, Clermont co., O.

MESSRS. HOOPER AND AFFLECK: *Gentlemen*—Permit me to suggest a few brief remarks on the subject of raising Sweet Potatoes.

It is the wish of some men, where they are in possession of any knowledge by which

they excell their neighbors in cultivating any article of *marketing*, to incline to secrecy on the subject. Now, my dear sirs, I am not only willing, but ev n anxious, that every person should be in possession of the best possible method of cultivating every article that is in general use.

I was for many years in the habit of raising high, peaked hills for my potatoes, and then flattening the tops, say 6 or 8 inches in diameter—and then planting from 3 to 5 pieces, or small roots in each hill. The result was universally, if it was seasonable, I had an overflowing crop of *vines*, but few *roots*, and these small. If the season was dry, I had but few *vines*, and *no roots*. Last spring I determined to try again. Accordingly I bought some seed potatoes in market in Cincinnati, of an old gentleman, I think his name was Durham, and he directed me how to manage—which was as follows: Plow your ground *deep*, then harrow it well, so as to pulverise it; then furrow it off 3 feet apart, and then cross-furrow it 3 feet 6 inches. These furrows form the margin of each hill; then pulverise all the clods in each hill, and raise them up, say about 10 inches, leaving them perfectly flat on the top. Put in *one small potato*, or a piece not larger than your least finger, in the middle of each hill; (and, said he, Durham, you will have roots with but few tops,) I followed his directions, and the result was, I had more in a hill, and I think larger potatoes than I had ever seen before. Some of your readers will see this article who saw my potatoes whilst growing, and after I had dug them.

I am, respectfully, yours,

T. DAUGHTERS.

Our most successful growers of sweet potatoes in this vicinity, who raise them for market, prepare their hills as Mr. Daughters describes, selecting a piece of new land, and preferring it of a light, rich, sandy loam—but instead of a single piece in a hill, they put their seed potatoes in a hotbed about the middle or end of March, laying them carefully all over the surface of the bed, and covering them with two inches of rich earth, and thus forward them, so as to have fine, strong plants to set out by the last week of April, or first of May. They put one sprout in a hill, and get three crops from their bed. One bushel of good seed is considered sufficient for an acre, containing some 4000 hills. By thus sprouting their seed, they make it go farther; they have potatoes ready for market two weeks earlier; and they have a longer season for their full crops to grow and ripen in, before frost.

T. A.

For the Western Farmer and Gardener.

Patton Cattle.

Colbyville, Ky., March 3, 1841.

Messrs. Hooper and Affleck: *Dear Sirs*—Agreeable to your request, I give you the following account of the Patton stock.

As early as the year 1783, there were some cattle imported from England, with a view of improving the cattle of the United States.

A few years afterwards, young Mr. Patton brought to Kentucky a bull descended from these cattle. This bull was of what was then called the beef-breed of cattle.

In 1797, old Mr. Patton (from whom the stock takes its name in Kentucky) brought to his residence in Clarke county, Kentucky, a bull and cow, (Mars and Venus,) directly descended from imported cattle, of what was then called the milk breed—which was the old Durham. He also brought some half-blooded cows of the milk and beef-breed of cattle.

What was the origin of this *beef-breed* appears to be somewhat doubtful. I have heard two opinions. The most prevalent is, that they were the unimproved Longhorn. Another opinion is, that they were the unimproved Hereford. They were very large, coarse cattle; came slowly to maturity; bad handlers, and worse feeders.

The milk-breed came earlier to maturity, and are said by the old feeders to have fattened kindly. The descendants of these cattle were extraordinary milkers; a great number of them gave thirty-two quarts of milk a day, and some a larger quantity. The cow of this breed died, leaving no female descendants—so that when you hear of a full-blooded Patton cow, you may know what is meant.

Duchess of Oxford
The Property of Messrs. James Pollock and Lane Brecky. of Hamilton County, Ohio.
Chas Foster Sc.

There were several other bulls, from the same importation, afterwards brought to Kentucky. Among these may be mentioned Pluto, brought by Mr. Harrison—Buzzard, by Captain Smith—Shaker, by Wetton and Hutchcraft—and two bulls by Cunningham and Inskeep.

The reputation of Mr. Patton's stock was deservedly very great. And in after years the descendants of all the bulls mentioned above, and the descendants of their calves out of common cows, were called *Patton Stock.*

Mr. Patton's old bull, Mars, was sold at an advanced age, at public sale, for £40, ($133 33.)

The following is Mr. Benjamin Harrison's description of Mars and the cow Venus:—"The bull (Mars) was of a deep red with white face, of good size, of round, full form, of more bone than the popular stock of the present day, his horns somewhat coarse.

The heifer (Venus) was a pure white, except her ears which were red, of fine size, high form, short crumply horns, turning downwards."

I do not know what was the original color of the beef-breed, but many of their descendants were deep red with black streaks. Whether they got this color from the original stock, or some cross of the native cattle, I am not prepared to say.

I see that you have given my pigs double allowance—the two quarts of meal made into mush, was divided between them three times a day. This makes 3 quarts of meal for each pig a day. They have never yet been able to eat it all. SAM'L D. MARTIN.

P. S.—On the 19th of Feb. Bernice weighed 185 lbs
Bertha weighed 174 "
Bernice's gain in 30 days, 69 "
Bertha's " " " 75½ "
On the 25th of Feb. Bernice weighed 207 "
Bertha " 186 "
Bernice's gain in 6 days, 22 "
Bertha's in 6 days, out of order. 12 "
On March 2nd, Bernice weighed 209 "
Bertha " 196 "
Bernice's gain in 6 days, out of order, 2 "
Bertha's gain in 6 days, 10 "

S. D. M.

By the above postscript, it will be seen that the "banter-pigs" have not gained, during the last 22 days, much over half what they gained during the preceding 20 days. The reason is obvious enough, and we feared it all along—the Dr. would have succeeded better with *barrows.* We long to see a statement of Mr. Fanning's progress.

Dr. M. must excuse our quoting one short sentence from his letter to ourselves; it is too good to be lost!—"I do not wonder that you could not admire my *Black Berkshires;* we are in this particular like my friend, Mr. ———, who had a heifer that was the admiration of every body that had seen her, and he thought she was the best in the state; but when he brought her to the Fair at Lexington, he was astonished to see that there were *a number* of heifers there that excelled her. So it is with my Black Berkshires—when they are with the Woburn, White Berkshire, and Neapolitan, they are in a 'hard crowd to shine!' If I had none of these other hogs, and you had seen them alone, they would have had a very *different* appearance."

I give up, Dr.! I have nothing more to say! T. A.

Portrait of Berryman.

Two only of the breeders in this vicinity, answered to the call we made on them in our last number, "to gratify the public of Cincinnati with a sight of their thorough-bred bulls, on Monday, the 8th inst." These were Mr. Lane Reedy, who exhibited the imported bull "Berryman," and Mr. Jno. Mahard, Jr., who showed "Prince Frederick." These fine animals remained two days at Mr. Gilmore's stable in Walnut street, where they were seen by some hundreds of those who take an interest in such matters, many of whom were heard to declare, that they would breed no more to common stock; their cows should in future visit nothing of less note and beauty than "Fred," or "Berryman!" We regret exceedingly that none of the other breeders, we could name, who stand bulls within easy distance of the city, put themselves to the slight inconvenience of sending

their animals in, and so affording a cheap gratification to so many.

"Prince Frederick" was in fine order, and showed to good advantage—but we have already spoken of him, and will pass him by for the present.

"Berryman," whose portrait—and a most admirable likeness it is—taken whilst here, by Mr. Foster, and engraved by him for the Farmer, we now offer to our readers, was not in such fine order. It was our first acquaintance with him, and we were much struck with his appearance. Bred in England by the Rev'd Henry Berry, one of the first breeders and judges of the day, he came among us under the most favorable auspices—his pedigree good, being got by Henwood, (2114) dam Minikin by Wharfdale, (1758) g. d. Minna, by Nestor (452) g. g. d. Minerva, by Harold, (291) g g g d Mary, by Meteor, (432) g g g g g d Magdalene, bred by Mr. C. Colling, by Comet, (155) g g g g g d by Cupid, (177.) What can be better? Yet, with all this, and his fine form and appearance to boot, he has had but few thorough-bred cows sent to him, he having been taken to a part of the country where there are, we may say, none. Mr. Mahard has one heifer by him from "Florida"—"Miranda—" which he may and *will* show against *any thing*. His owners have now resolved to offer him to the public, and we do not doubt but he will have full employment.

Berryman is a dark, brindle-like roan, calved in 1835, and of the following dimensions, *when in very poor order*—length, from base of horn, 7 feet 2½ inches; height at shoulder 4.10; height at loin, 4.9; girth behind the shoulder, 7.5; girth over the kidney, 7.6: girth of neck behind the horn, 4 feet; from dewlap to the ground, 1.1½; from knee to ground, 11½ inches; and weight, 1815 lbs.—if in fair order would reach at least 2,400 lbs. He was imported by Messrs. Neff and Lawrence, we think in 1838; and purchased of them by Messrs. James Pollock and Lane Reedy, for $1,200. Those gentlemen still own him. He may now be seen at Mr. Mahard's farm, where he will remain for some time. EDITORS.

Foot's Universal Thrasher and Stock Mill.

We would call the attention of our readers to the advertisement of the above named machine, on the cover of the present number, and to the certificates that accompany it. We have not seen it at work, but have conversed with several farmers and others who have, and they all speak of it in the highest terms. We intend taking an early opportunity of seeing it in operation, and will also have one of them at our office for exhibition, where those who wish to economise, both in feed and labor, ought to call and see it. EDITORS.

Extracts from a Letter to the Editors, by N. I. H.

* * * My daughter is a constant reader of your paper, and diligently searches it from A to Z, for horticultural articles. When your last arrived, she eagerly snatched it, glanced over it rapidly, and with disappointment depicted in her countenance, exclaimed: "Mother, no visits to the garden this month! I do wish they would say less about hogs and cows, and more about flowers and plants." I told her this was not the best season to visit gardens, but to look again carefully, and see if she could find nothing interesting. O yes, said she, here is something—something to the ladies. She read, and when she came to where the writer promises to assist those in moderate circumstances who wished it, to select plants and lay out and arrange a flower garden, her eyes beamed with pleasure.

* * * * * *

A kind lady of our acquaintance gave her seeds, her father gave her a little ground, and she cultivated it in her own way. It was indeed a motly mixture of the gay and beautiful of our most common annuals; but her plants grew luxuriantly, and afforded her a feast through the whole summer. This season I wish to assist her a little, but really I don't know how; and I for one, and she for another, readily respond to your call upon those who are "half persuaded" to accept of your kind offer of assistance.

For the Western Farmer and Gardener.

On the Preparation of Hemp.

BY SANDS OLCOTT, NEWPORT, KY.

Hemp, when at a proper state of maturity, is composed of three materials—wood, gum, and filaments.

The rotting of Hemp, has for its object, the accomplishment of several important effects; first, it causes the filaments to separate from the wood; secondly, the disengagement of the vegetable gum, *that most pernicious substance*, from the fibre; thirdly, it causes the fibres to separate from each other.

The breaking and swingling is performed to separate the wood from the fibres; and the perfection of this operation, is to rend the fibres as little as possible. The process of hackling is next carried on, to separate the short and broken fibres from the long ones; and to split or separate them into fine filaments, in proportion to the size and quality of the yarn to be spun from them. Hence it will be perceived, much of the success of this last operation depends upon the previous treatment of the hemp: that system which accomplishes the above results with the least labor, and leaves the material in the best condition, is evidently the most valuable.

Our system, and that which we believe is best calculated to save labor and produce the most valuable hemp, and which we flatter ourselves must become universal, is as follows. We take the hemp from the field, after it has been sun-dried, and pass it through a machine composed of a series of fluted rollers, running in pairs and working in each other; the upper rollers being weighted down by levers and weights.—These rollers should have a speed of about 150 revolutions per minute, and will work about two tons of hemp in twelve hours. The hemp thus crushed and deprived of the greater portion of the wood, should be made into bundles of about twelve pounds each, and fastened about the middle with a piece of hemp. These bundles are then placed in a pool five feet deep by fifteen wide and thirty long, and fastened down by timbers running across the vat; but so contrived, that they can be loosened when the hemp is to be taken out. Water is then let in and allowed to remain until fermentation takes place. This is the most important part of the process; and great care must be taken to check the fermentation before it goes far into the putrid state; on the perfection of this fermentation, the quality of hemp much depends. The first fermentation produces vinegar; the second ceases to be sour, from the production of ammonia and is the putrid state: the point at which this fermentation should arrive, if we may use the expression, is between the two. If the fermentation goes too far, the material will be tender and towey; if not far enough, it will be harsh and unmanageable. Experience alone can teach the operator the exact point at which to stop the fermenting action. *Time* will form no criterion, as every thing depends on *temperature* and the quantity of hemp: from five to fifteen days may be considered the outside. These remarks apply with equal correctness to hemp in the stem. As soon as the fermentation or rotting is complete, the water should be drawn off, and fresh water let on: this will, in a great measure, check further action. The hemp is then removed and hung on bents, formed by posts set in the ground, and a rail fastened to the top. These bents should be arranged in rows, as near the rotting pool as possible. When the hemp is completely dry, it is taken to the milling-house, and being separated into hands, these hands are laid on a table with the ends lapping over each other and twisted into a rove, measuring about four inches in circumference, and fifty to one hundred feet long. This roving is then passed through the milling machine, and over a stretch pulley: the milling machine being set in motion, the roving continues to pass in and out of the machine in the form of an endless band. This operation should be continued until the hemp composing the rove, is completely soft and silky; the fibres split to the desired fineness, and all the remaining wood disengaged. The roving is then taken from the machine, untwisted and shaken, and you have the finest specimen of hemp known in our market. When the hemp is to go to market as "No. 1, long clean," it should be drawn over a very coarse hackle, and about one fifth of its weight taken out, which consists of a fine soft tow, capable of being carded and spun into bagging or much finer goods. From this tow alone, should the article of cotton bagging ever be manufactured; it is made into that fabric for little over half what it costs to work the hemp now known in the market. The entire cost of preparing hemp by this process, may be safely calculated on not to exceed one dollar per hundred weight; including power, interest on cost of machinery, &c. &c. If steam is used to drive the machinery, the wood of the hemp is an excellent fuel, and is furnished in sufficient quantities to supply the en-

gine. The market value of hemp, prepared in this way, may always be calculated on at ten cents per pound, the tow for bagging at two to two-and-a-half cents.—

Products of an acre of hemp.

One acre—a good crop—will yield 600 lbs. hemp, at ten cents	$60,00.
150 lbs tow, at two cents	3,00.
	$63,00.
Deduct expense of preparation,	7,50.
	$55,50.

Cost of cotton bagging manufactured by machinery from the tow—two pounds to the yard, 46 inches wide; two and a half pounds hemp tow at two cents 5 cts.
cost of making 4 "
freight to market 1 "
cost per yard 10 "

Cost of making best Dundee bagging—two pounds to the yard, 46 inches wide; two and a half pounds of *Cordelia* hemp and *flax* tow, costs at Dundee two and a half cents, 6¼ cts.
cost of making 3 "
freight from Dundee 1 "
duty 3½ "
cost per yard 13¾

Cost of the late importation of India bagging—2¼ lbs. to the yard, 46 inches wide; cost in India 2½ pence sterling per yard, equal to 5 cts.
freight from 4 to 5 cents per yard 5 "
duty 3½ "
cost per yard 13½

The above estimates are made without regard to extraneous expenses, which may be varied according to circumstances. Supposing each article to be delivered at New Orleans, it would then be subject to the expenses of the commission merchant.

The above calculations show conclusively, that we cannot expect to compete with the foreign manufacturer of bagging, without reducing the price of the dew-rotted hemp below that at which it will be advantageous for the farmer to grow it. At the same time it shows that *hemp, properly prepared,* is by far the most profitable crop *known to our soil.*

The advantage which our system obtains over the ordinary water rotting is, that the hand-breaking and swingling, is done away with altogether; therefore any farmer, who can cultivate oats and corn, can cultivate hemp. Secondly, the hemp being deprived of seven-eighths of its weight, previous to immersion in water, the vats contain a proportionably larger quantity; and there is a great saving of labor in handling and drying the wet hemp. Thirdly, the hemp is of a vastly superior quality and for all fine purposes, will command a price in our Eastern market, much above the best Russian.

We have heard it argued, and with some force, that in this system we will meet with a great difficulty in procuring a sufficient quantity of "stem," near enough to admit of so bulky an article being transported. To this objection we must answer by giving our experience.

About twelve years since, we became identified with an establishment in Elizabethtown, New Jersey, and subsequently with one on the Delaware in Pennsylvania, entirely with the view of purchasing flax in the stem, and manufacturing it into coarse articles. We at that time used the first breaker, which we have described, not being then in possession of the milling machine, so important in this operation. In both these places flax was but little cultivated at that time; the labor of rotting and cleaning had caused it to be almost entirely abandoned, as an article of cultivation. We however had no difficulty in procuring large quantities delivered in the *stem*, the amount increasing yearly. We can see no difficulty in ten or twelve farmers, in an immediate vicinity, producing hemp sufficient to keep a moderate sized establishment in constant operation. Those who are desirous of further information on this subject, are invited to call at the Factory in Newport, Ky., and make a personal and practical investigation. The writer has no hesitation in offering his system to the public, as the *simplest* and *cheapest*, and as producing the *best quality* of hemp known in commerce.

It has long been considered a great desideratum to accomplish these ends by mechanical means, and innumerable have been the attempts to subject this important material to the profitable action of machinery; but so universal have been the failures, that a general doubt, has of late prevailed amongst the most experienced, of its practicability. It was at one time supposed, that if hemp and flax could be relieved of their wood without rotting, the fibres would be of a superior quality; and for this purpose many contrivances were made in England, in France, and afterwards in the United States, (the Americans falling into the same error,) but experience has shown them, that owing to the vegetable gum which remains, even if the cleaning from wood had been perfect, such hemp is an

entirely useless article, from its determination to *ferment and decay when exposed to the weather, and to dry-rot under other circumstances.* The dew-rotted hemp of Kentucky, has the same quality, but to a much less extent, owing to its having undergone a partial fermentation; it contains nevertheless a large portion of the gum, which renders it comparatively useless for cordage and other substantial purposes. The effect of this gum in tarred cordage is, that the gum does not become saturated with the tar, and prevents the tar from penetrating the fibres; and is ever after absorbing the *oily* portion of the tar, and leaves a disengaged rosin: the fibres after a few months assume a husky and tender character.

It is not the intention of the writer, in this article to give his *complete system* of the Preparation of Hemp and Flax, as applicable to fine purposes; but to state in as concise a manner as possible, the process best adapted to the present cultivation and use of these articles in the United States. It is indeed a lamentable fact, that this country with its extensive territory, and a soil perhaps better calculated for the production of hemp than any other on earth, should not be able to supply her commerce with that article, of a quality suitable for the purpose. And still more humiliating, that this defect should arise, in a great measure, from ignorance and want of enterprize. The writer will here for a moment set aside his own favorite process, which is a matter of pecuniary interest to himself, and say to the grower, water-rot your hemp—handle it well—take from it a small portion of the tow, and you have an article that will compete with the best Russian hemp. Make the tow into bagging and bale-ropes, and you will need no protective duty. Will the grower of hemp and manufacturer of bagging in the United States, reflect for a moment on the subject of protection? Is it reasonable, would it be judicious to protect him to an extent that would enable him to continue in *spoiling the best hemp in the world by bad preparation*, so that it is fit for nothing but cotton bagging, in which form it must compete with the "breaktow" of Russia and "juit" of India, articles that are fit for nothing else, and the former of which must be produced and sold no matter at what price?

We confess we were much surprised at the expression of a gentleman of Kentucky, alike renowned for his intelligence, public spirit, and statesmanlike patriotism—"Our hemp," he exclaimed, "is only fit for bagging and bale-rope; it answers well for that and that is all we ask or expect from it!" We will say in answer to this, that in that case, we must expect and ask but a very small price, as is evident from the accumulations of tow and other rough materials in foreign countries, and which are now flowing to this from every direction.

SANDS OLCOTT.

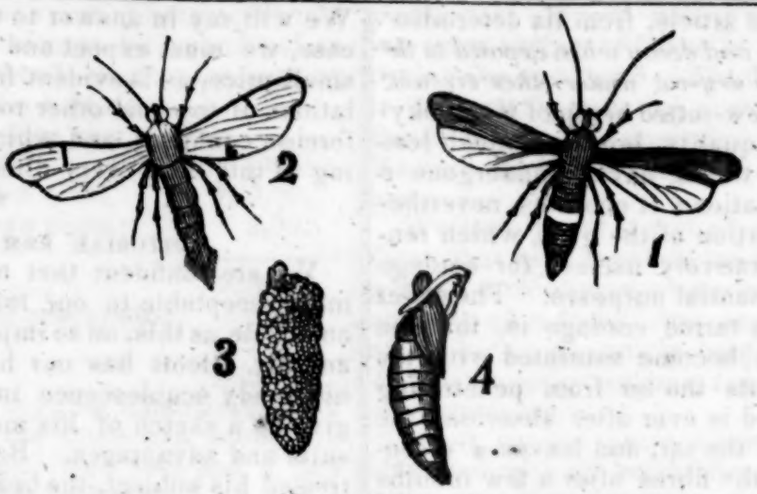
EDITORIAL REMARKS.

We are confident that nothing could be more acceptable to our readers, than such an article as this, on so important a subject; and Mr. Olcott has our hearty thanks for his ready acquiescence in our request, to give us a sketch of his method and its results and advantages. But well as he has treated his subject, the beautiful specimens of Hemp and Flax prepared by him, and left at our office, say more in favor of his system than anything that can be written. The water-rotting of hemp is exciting great interest amongst the farmers of Ky. The efforts made in the South to do away with the use of domestic bagging and bale-rope—some of the planters having even gone the length of baling their cotton in thin cotton-wood boards, bound together with hoops! The Scotch and Russia articles, spoken of by Mr. Olcott, made of tow, having also lately been used to a great extent, together with the experiments recently made at the Navy-yard, proving incontestibly, that the hemp of Kentucky and Missouri, properly prepared is infinitely superior to that of any foreign growth; ought to be convincing proofs to the hemp growers of the West, that that article can be turned to much better and more profitable uses than the mere manufacture of cotton bagging. There is also the additional fact of the bagging, when removed from the bales in England, being there unravelled, made into different useful fabrics and resold to us at a handsome profit. It is a crop too profitable to be thrown aside.—In the report of the V. President of the 13th district, before the Ky. State Agricultural Society, we find it stated, that

"Under ordinary circumstances, in that district, hemp, at the price of $6,00 per 100 wt. pays the farmer $42, for the rent of one acre of land and the expense of cultivation—a business, considering all circumstances, fully equal, if not superior to the cultivation of cotton."

Now, that it is proved beyond a doubt, that machinery can be applied to preparing it for the market, taking the place of the laborious and inefficient hand-breaking process, it becomes of importance also to the farmers of Ohio and Indiana. Mr. Olcott proposes purchasing the hemp as it leaves the field—being merely cut, sun-dried and made up into bundles, and delivered anywhere on the Ohio or Licking rivers. He will be pleased to answer any enquiries that may be put to him.

T. A.



Ægeria Exitiosa,

OR PEACH-TREE WORM.

Fig. 1 Female in the winged state.
" 2 Male, " " "
" 3 Follicle of the Pupa state,
" 4 Exuvia or case of the Pupa.

For the Western Farmer and Gardener.

Among the causes of the premature decay of the Peach-Tree, the depredations of this insect, is the principle one.

In the LARVA or *grub-form*, the body of this worm is of a whitish color, and its head reddish brown. Its length at maturity, is about three-fourths of an inch.

It commences its destructive career soon after it has hatched from the egg, and enters the tree, probably through the tender bark, under the surface of the soil. From thence, it first works downwards in the root, until the early part of the ensuing summer, when it directs its course upwards, towards the body of the tree, by excavating a channel, as it progresses, between the bark and wood.

Having attained its full size in the *Larva* or *Grub*-form, it next passes into the *Pupa* state, between the first and the middle of July. At that time, it may be discovered, close to the trunk of the tree, enveloped in its *follicle*, and surrounded by a large accumulation of gum, that oozes out of its desiccated channel in the root. In this, the *Pupa* state, it continues until the latter part of July, or the beginning of August, when it again changes into the *moth, winged,* or *perfect* state.

In this condition it is active and vigilant, concealing itself during the day, in cracks or crevices, about the trees, fences or other secure places, and at night issuing forth to fulfill its vocations, and prepare for propagating a new generation of the grub.

While in the *moth*-state, the sexes differ so much in appearance, that a superficial observer might mistake them for distinct species.

The female soon commences depositing her eggs upon the bark of the tree just above the surface of the ground, and completes the process before the close of September, when she, as well as the male dies.

It is said, that in some instances she deposits not less than three hundred eggs upon one tree. The egg is oblong-oval, dull-yellow, and so small as to be only just observable by the naked eye. It hatches into a minute grub in eight or ten days. The young progeny then perforates the tender bark of the trees, beneath the surface of the earth, in the manner already suggested.

These several changes, constitute its annual routine of transformation, and they usually occur at the periods mentioned; yet there are individuals that do not conform to the general rule, but undergo the changes earlier or later, according to circumstances; and it is probable that there are a few females depositing their eggs during most, or all of the summer months.

A detailed account of the habits, and scientific characters of the *Ægeria*, as well as of the means that are sometimes

employed to prevent its depredations, is contained in Mr. Say's "American Entemology," Vol. II., which your readers will do well to consult.*

A knowledge of the habits of noxious or troublesome insects, will many times enable us to devise methods for their counteraction. In the instance of this insect, a very simple remedy to prevent its depredations has been suggested, and I am happy to say that experience has, to some extent, confirmed its efficacy.

The Ægeria in its perfect or winged state, is closely allied to the *moth* family. The fact is probably universally known, that aromatic oils of all kinds are peculiarly offensive to that family of insects. Every house-wife knows that a quantity of Camphor, Turpentine, oil of Tansy, or Tobacco, placed in her drawers, containing woolen clothes, will effectually preserve them from attacks of the common moth.

It is evident that the same plan, under some form, may be employed to repel from the peach tree the *Ægeria*, in its moth state; and it is only in that state in which it deposits ites eggs.

Tobacco, sulphur and coal-ashes have been tried with partial success—but they are temporary, and require to be often replaced.

Tansy and wormwood contain large quantities of essential oil, which is peculiarly offensive to this insect; and it is found, that if the body of the peach tree be surrounded by half a dozen sprouts of either of these vegetables, it will be perfectly secured against the approaches of this destructive enemy.

They should be planted out in the spring, nearly in contact with the body of the tree, and so as to surround it. During the summer they should be cultivated, and kept free from grass. In this way they form a permanent and successful means of defence against the insect that has nearly exterminated the peach tree from many sections of the country.

It is probable the *Chanipodium anthelminticum*, the plant that furnishes the wormseed-oil, and perhaps some other bitter and aromatic vegetables, would answer equally well.

The Hon. Reuben Wood first suggested this method to me, several years since, and I have tested it myself, to a limited extent. During the last summer I had the satisfaction of seeing the successful result of it, on a more extended scale, at his farm, a few miles from Cleveland. Large and healthy peach trees were standing in his garden, that had remained exempt from any attacks of the worm for a number of years—during which time they had been carefully surrounded either with tansy or wormwood; at the same time, other trees, in the same garden, and very contiguous, left unprotected, were rapidly declining, with their roots perforated in all directions by the worm.

It is probably unnecessary to add, that these means will act as a prevention

*ÆGERIA EXITIOSA—*Description. Male.* *Body*, steel-blue: *antennæ* ciliated on the inner side, black, with a tinge of blue: *palpi* beneath, yellow: *head* with a band at base, both above and beneath, pale yellow: *eyes* black-brown: *thorax* with two pale yellow longitudinal lines, and a transverse one behind, interrupted above, and a spot of the same color, beneath the origin of the wings: *wings* hyaline, nervures and margin steel-blue,—which is more dilated on the costal margin, and on the anastomosing band of the superior wings: *feet* steel-blue, the coxæ, two bands on the tibiæ including the spines, incisures of the posterior tarsi, and anterior tarsi behind, pale yellow: *abdomen* with two very narrow pale yellow bands, one of which is near the base, and the other on the middle: *tail* fringed, the fringe margined each side with white.

FEMALE. Body very dark steel-blue, with a tinge of purple: *antennæ* destitute of cilliæ: *palpi* beneath, black: *thorax* immaculate: *superior wings* steel-blue, without any hyaline spot: *inferior wings* hyaline, with an opaque margin and longitudinal line; the latter and the costal margin are dilated: *tergum* with the fifth segment bright reddish—fulvous.

PUPA with two semifasciæ of spines upon each of the segments, excepting the three terminal ones, which have a single row only.

FOLLICLE brown, oblong-oval, composed of small pieces of bark and earth, closely connected together by the web of the animal.

SAY.

against the insect, only while it is in the winged state. They will not affect the larva or the pupa.

Nor will the Horticulturist expect them to preserve his peach trees against attacks of the yellows, the evil effects of a bad soil, or the injurious impressions of extreme cold weather while the wood is immature.

JARED P. KIRTLAND.

Cincinnati, Feb. 22d, 1841.

Sugar Beet.

Messrs. Editors:—At your request, I send you my mode of cultivating the Sugar Beet; also, my opinion of them as food for cattle. As much has already been said in favor of the beet, if you should not think my few remarks worth a place in your useful work, just lay them aside.

In 1839, having heard much said about the beet as food for cattle, I concluded to try a few of them, and purchased half a lb. of seed, for which I paid $1. These seed I planted on about ¼ of an acre of ground. The land had been broken up in the fall, being a piece of meadow; was ploughed again in the latter part of April, well harrowed and furrowed, set three feet apart, as shallow as possible with a light plough. In these furrows the seeds were dropped, about 8 or 10 inches apart, by hand. Small boys may drop them, by giving them a stick as a measure of the distance to put them. As soon as they were large enough, I had them thinned and transplanted—many of the seed producing two or three plants; but the transplanting did but little good. From this ¼ of an acre, I obtained 150 bushels, many of them weighing from 10 to 13 lbs, and some as high as 18 lbs.

I exhibited some of them at the Agricultural fair of Hamilton co., and received as a premium on them, a pair of silver sugar tongs. Wishing to give the beet a fair test as food for cattle, I commenced in November feeding an ox upon them which had been used in the yoke until spring, but receiving an injury in one of his feet, I determined to make a beef of him. He had run upon pasture during the summer, but was lean when I commenced feeding him. I fed him principally upon the beet, giving him occasionally, by way of a change, a feed of corn or potatoes, with some long food; killed him the last of February, and obtained from him of nett tallow, 100 lbs.

The beef was pronounced by good judges who eat of it, to be of a very superior quality. The balance of my beets I fed to my milch cows, which immediately showed an increase in quantity, as well as an improvement in the quality of the milk. As soon as my best beets were gone, not having enough to last all the winter, I resorted to slop and other food again; and a change for the worse was very soon perceptible. Being thus encouraged in my first crop, I concluded to try a second. Last spring I procured 1½ lbs of the French Sugar Beet seed, for which I paid $2 25. I then ploughed ¾ of an acre of land, of a good quality, without putting any manure, double the common depth of ploughing, by running twice in the same furrow; harrowed it well, and laid it off 2½ feet wide; soaked the seed 36 hours in warm water, which I find much advances their vegetation. I planted in the latter part of April, in drills, putting the seed from 8 to 10 inches apart, covering about 1 inch deep. As soon as they came up, I procured a few more seed and replanted where they were missing—believing this to be a better plan than transplanting—thinning at the same time where the seed had produced more than one plant. As soon as they required working I passed a small shovel plough between each row, and followed with hoes, taking out all grass or weeds that happened to be left by the plough. In a short time they so shaded the ground, that they only required the earth to be stirred occasionally by the plough. As to the time of pulling them, we should be governed entirely by the season; they will bear sharp frosts, but are injured by the *ground's* freezing. Many were injured last fall, by being left in the ground too late.

I obtained last fall, from this ¾ of an acre of land, over 600 bushels of beets, which I had packed away in my cellar as close as possible, leaving the dirt upon them that might stick after handling. I have no doubt but they may be kept, by burying them out just as you would the Irish potato. From these beets, with some long food, such as clover, hay and straw, I have been able to keep my stock in much finer condition this winter, without the aid of either corn or slop—obtain more milk, of a richer and finer flavor and producing more butter to the same quantity, than I was formerly able to do.

My mode of feeding them, is to cut them up just as you would pumpkins, in suitable sizes for cattle to eat them.

I am of opinion, that where cows are plentifully fed upon the beet, they will produce if not quite as much milk, as much

butter and of an equal if not superior quality, as they will upon the luxuriant pastures of May.

J. T. BERRY.

Fairfield, Ky., March 10th, 1841.

Here we have, what we would always be pleased to have sent to us, *actual facts*, and successful results. We see that some of the eastern agricultural works condemn the sugar beet in toto, as food for stock, because it did not succeed in their climate! Through the West, we have had the most favorable results from every experiment, where a proper course of cultivation has been pursued. We would most earnestly urge it upon every farmer in the great valley to raise, this season, a good patch of sugar beet.

Manure in the furrow will be found to repay the cost and labor seven-fold. One foot apart in the row is quite near enough. Take a piece of two-inch plank, describe a circle on it of three feet in circumference; cut it off neatly, so as to form a wheel of that size; in the edge of that wheel, insert three pegs, one inch in diameter, and three inches long, at equal distances from each other; in the centre fix an axle, to which attach a forked stick, so that it will run freely—and a boy by trundling this wheel along the furrow, will mark off the holes in which to drop the seed, with ten times the rapidity at which it can be done with a gage in one hand and the seed in the other. T. A.

Annual Flowers.

As the season approaches when the lovers of Flora begin to make preparation for the ensuing summer, a few plain hints on the cultivation of the more easily raised annuals, may be acceptable to your readers; and certainly no department of flori-culture more amply repays the little care they exact at the hands of the amateur, than these "short-lived beauties."—Infinite in variety—some seem to *claim* our admiration as their lawful due, and lift their gaudy heads, with queenly dignity above their more humble companions—the coquettes of the parterre;—others, with "bashful maiden modesty," retire to the shady nook, and, unseen, load the air with fragrance,—some

Spread their gay petals to the noon-day sun'
And draw new vigor from his scorching beams'

Others droop and die beneath his influence, to be succeeded by a new progeny, transitory as themselves.

Of the cultivation of many varieties I speak from experience; where I have not had this advantage, I have referred to that of my friends, or to some good author. Those who desire to forward some of the more tender and delicate kinds, may do so by sowing them on a hot-bed in March or beginning of April; and as the management of these beds is generally attended with a little difficulty to the inexperienced, I shall give a few short directions.

The bed having been prepared, as you directed last month, and the heat up to the proper temperature, which generally requires three or four days, you may proceed to cover it with six or eight inches of fine, light, garden soil; when this covering is heated through, the seeds may be sown. If but a few plants of each variety are wanted, a good mode is to sow them in drills across the bed; the depth to which they are covered must be regulated mainly by the size of the seed, many of the smaller kinds succeeding better by merely placing them on the surface; the larger may vary from an eighth of an inch to an inch. Give occasionally a gentle sprinkling of water, from a watering pot with a fine rose, until they come up; care must now be taken to let them have air whenever the weather will permit to prevent them damping off, and on pleasant days the sash may be entirely removed for an hour or two at midday. Where they crowd too much, thin them out, giving plenty of room for a free circulation amongst them. The frames must be covered at night with matting or straw, should there be any danger of frost. As they increase in size, continue to pull up the smallest and weakest; and as fast as the weather will permit, habituate them to

exposure. They may generally be transplanted to the open ground, in May or early in June. In place of sowing them immediately on the soil, some sow in pots, and place these on the hot-bed.

As no uniform mode of culture will answer for all varieties, I shall notice a few of the most generally admired, as well as some not much known, but which are worth attention.

Aster Chinensis: (China Asters.) These are seldom seen in this vicinity in the perfection they admit of. Crowded together in vases, or left to grow as they may chance to spring up from the soil; the flowers are generally diminutive in size and few in number. Cultivated in pots, there should never be more than one permitted to grow in each; when they have made five or six rough leaves in the hot-bed, they may be transplanted into four inch pots, in a light rich compost, and placed in a situation secure from frost: in three or four weeks, shift them into pots about an inch larger, and as soon as the weather will permit, expose them to the open air in a sunny situation. In a month or six weeks they will require to be again repotted into six or seven inch pots, in a stronger soil. Tie up the branches carefully to sticks, and give them a regular supply of water. The quilled varieties should always be selected. When the seeds are sown in May or June, and the plants treated in the same way, they are a beautiful ornament for the parlor window in fall and winter.

Mimosa Sensitiva: (Sensitive plant.) To bring this interesting exotic to perfection, the seeds should be sown in rich, light soil, on a hot-bed; when they have made a few leaves, pot them off singly, and keep them under glass until the last of May. Soaking the seeds in water, a few hours previous to planting, greatly hastens their vegetation.

Gomphrena Globosa: (Globe Amaranthus.) The seeds should be divested of their down, and soaked in milk-warm water ten or twelve hours, previous to planting; place the pots in a hot-bed, and when the plants are of sufficient size, transplant singly into small pots, in a very rich, light soil, well decayed; manure and black leaf-mould from the woods, with but a small proportion of loam, answers the purpose well; repot as often as the roots are observed to protrude themselves between the ball of earth and the pot; if desired, they may be turned out into the border about the middle of May: after they have attained some size, they like a good supply of water.

Delphinium: (Larkspur.) This should always be sown in the fall, and the bed be slightly covered with leaves during winter. The seeds must be placed where they are intended to remain; for, like the poppy, it will not bear transplanting.

Reseda Odorata: (Mignonette.) This fragrant annual, like the larkspur, never arrives at full perfection when sown in spring. The seeds should be placed in pots of light earth in August or September, and when they come up should be well thinned out. Keep them from the frost during winter, and water sparingly.

Schizanthus Pinnatus: (Wing-leaved Schizanthus.) This beautiful annual may be successfully sown at any season; if in winter or early in spring, the pots should be placed in a moderate hot-bed; they require a light sandy loam, frequent repotting and good drainage. The greatest caution is necessary in watering: they should never have a supply, until they begin to flag a little for want of it.

Clarkia Pulchella: (Beautiful Clarkia.) The seeds of this hardy annual should remain in the ground all winter, to bring it to perfection; but it may be sown in April or May in the open border: a light loam without any manure suits it best.

Petunia. There are few plants more desirable than the petunia. Of easy culture—its profusion of gay blossoms decorate the garden, until destroyed by frost. The seeds may be forwarded in a hot-bed, and the young plants placed in the open ground in May. Or they

may be trained to a frame in pots. They like a light, rich soil, and warm situation. As the branches extend in the open ground, they should be pegged down at intervals, with a forked stick, and have a little soil thrown over them; this causes them to strike new roots and imparts additional strength.

Gillia tri-color: (Three-colored Gillia.) The gillia, when grown in pots and suffered to hang over the sides carelessly, is peculiarly beautiful. Light, rich vegetable mould and sand is the most appropriate soil. It may be sown in the open garden in April or May; a situation should be chosen which is not manured, and which is shaded from the sun the greater part of the day.

Nigella Hispanica: (Spanish Nigella.) The seeds of this fine annual, should be sown about the middle of May, in a rich, light soil, in the open ground, where they are to remain, as they will not bear transplanting. The young plants should be thinned out to six or eight inches apart.

A CINCINNATI AMATEUR.

Culture of the Rhubarb and Strawberry.

Messrs. Editors—As I have cultivated both Srawberries and Rhubarb for about ten years, I thought a few hints on their cultivation might be acceptable to some of your readers, if they will take them in a rough way.

The Strawberry I have mostly cultivated is the Hudson. I plant any time from the first of April, till they are in bloom. I, one year, planted 25 square roods of ground; the plants were all in bloom when set out; and the next year I picked 38 bushels, and there were fully 10 bushels left on the vines.

I plant them in this way—first plough or spade the ground; harrow it smooth; then strain a line on one side nine inches from the edge, and plant a row from twelve to fifteen inches apart; then move the line eighteen inches, and plant another row; then move it three feet, and again eighteen inches—and so on till the ground is planted. I then go over and put one male plant every six feet, between the two rows. Keep them clear of weeds through the summer, and let them spread as much as they will.

In the fall dress out the walks eighteen inches wide, which will leave the beds three feet wide; and when it sets in cold, give them a light covering of straw; rake it off in the spring. You may then expect a full crop. It is best to make a new bed once in two or three years.

When I first began to cultivate the Rhubarb or Pie Plant, about ten years ago, twenty bunches would supply the Cincinnati market. There are now two or three wagon loads a day sold in the season of it. I have for some years cultivated nearly an acre of it.

It grows best in a deep rich soil, rather inclining to moisture. I manure the ground well; plough it deep; harrow it smooth; then furrow it off four feet and a half apart; set the roots in the furrow thee feet apart; cover the crowns about two inches with earth, and keep it clean through the summer with the plough and hoe.

One or two dozen plants are enough for a large family. I have grown the Mammoth Rhubarb with leaves three feet in diameter, the foot stalk weighing a pound: one stalk was enough for a large pie. S. S. JACKSON.

Green Township, March 11, 1841.

Mr. Jackson has our thanks for the above; it is just the sort of article we want—plain, practical, and business-like. Mr. J.'s experience enables him to write such to good advantage, and we are glad he has taken pen in hand. His neat establishment, about five miles from town, will soon well repay a ride to it—it is laid out and cultivated with great taste, and contains one of the best collections of choice plants in the west.

The Bee—No. IV.

In my last article on the Bee, at page 63, I described the subtended hive, recommended its adoption, and partly explained its use.

To those who have bees in the old,

clumsy boxes or gums in common use, I would recommend the economy of allowing them to remain as they are, and not attempt to drive, but save the young swarms, as they come off, in boxes on the subtended plan. The old gums ought to be carefully examined and repaired, as well as circumstances will permit, turning them up and removing all appearance of the moth, and cutting away the old, black empty comb. The bees will thus have some space afforded them, where they require and want it, and will throw off stronger swarms in consequence. Early in May, if the season be favorable, they will begin to throw off their first swarms—varying as to time in different locations. In the mean time, preparations ought to be made for their reception in the apiary; the hives and stands should be got ready, and a shelter erected; an open shed answering very well, so arranged as that they shall not be exposed to the full blaze of the hot summer's sun. A few trees in front, of a moderate growth, and trimmed up sufficiently to prevent the bees being entangled in the branches, in returning loaded to the hive, will be found of great assistance in swarming, as the bees will almost invariably settle on them, and remain from fifteen minutes to an hour, affording abundance of time for saving them, if the proprietor has every thing ready. But if they are allowed to go off a second time, there is little or no hope of saving them. All the noise usually made by beating tin-pans, ringing bells, etc. etc., is perfectly useless; though it may sometimes happen on a very clear, warm day, that they will show an unwillingness to settle, in which case they may be induced to do so, by casting a few ladles full of water amongst them, and even by firing a gun near—the concussion throwing them into confusion, and inducing them to settle. When they are all quiet, take a box, the holes in the top of which have been carefully plugged up, and after seeing that it is clean and sweet, shake or sweep the young swarm gently into it. The face and hands ought to be protected by a veil and gloves; for though bees are not inclined to sting when swarming, if gently handled, yet a chance sting inflicted on a tender place, will discompose the most firm, and probably occasion twenty more—for it is well known, that the odor of the poison is very strong, and immediately perceptible to the bees, having a most irritating effect upon them. If the outsides of the boxes have not been painted sufficiently long to allow the smell of the oil to dissipate, it will be well to rub it over, inside and out, with some sweet herb, such as balm, or even with hickory leaves, which will make them better satisfied with their quarters. So soon as they seem to be somewhat settled, place them on a table or stand of some kind, to allow the stragglers to collect; and in the evening set them or their stand in the apiary.

White clover and mignonette have always seemed to me to pay a handsome profit, as affording food for bees, on the space they occupy and the trouble incurred.

About the 15th of April, I will issue a little work devoted to this subject, entitled "Bee-breeding in the West," containing much more extended particulars of the management of this insect, on the plan of the subtended hive; as also their protection from the moth, and the other enemies they have to contend with, *here in the west.* My aim has been to issue a useful and cheap work, adapted to the necessities of our farmers—avoiding technicalities, and bringing the subject within the comprehension of all. T. A.

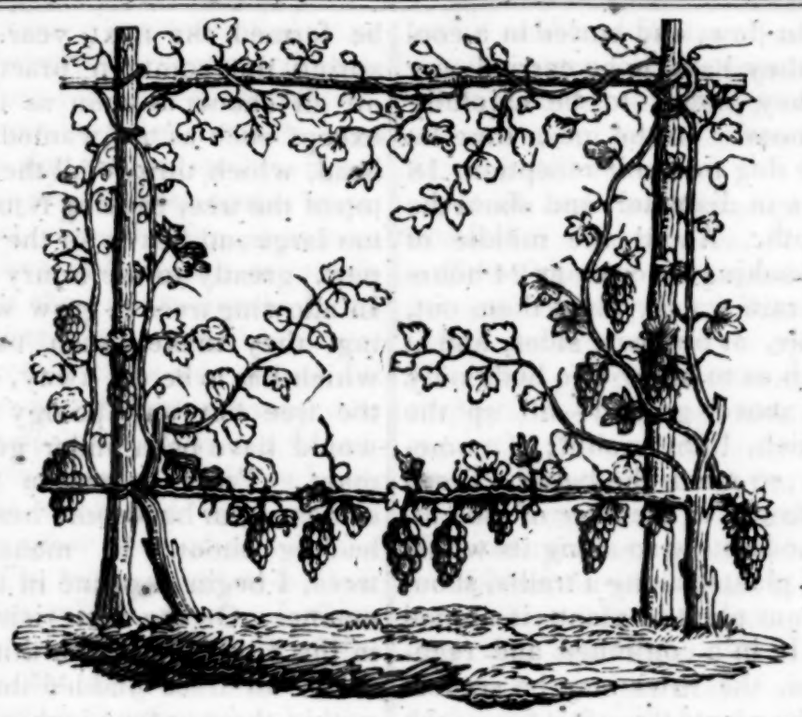
Dr. Martin's Pigs.

Dr. S. Martin's pigs at 4 months old, weighed as follows:

1. *Bernice*	- -	185 lbs.
2. *Bertha,*	- -	174 "

I am satisfied the Dr. will beat me so far, that I will be pretty well contented if my pigs weigh half as much as his, the day they are 6 months old; however, I think mine are very superior, and I hope to be able to give a full description of them all with their weights in the April No. of the Agriculturist.

T. FANNING.



The Grape.

Here we have a sketch of the mode of pruning and training the Vine, as practised in the vineyards of this vicinity—not carried out to its full extent, which the space we can afford will not allow of; still it will be sufficient to explain the system to those who have never seen it practised. The vines are represented as in full leaf and bearing, and after the young wood of that season had partially made its growth.

Now is the time to prepare the cuttings, and to make new plantations of the vine.

The first things to be considered, are the proper location of the vineyard, and the preparation of the ground.

We have made a practise of visiting every vineyard within our reach, and have remarked that those situated on the north, or north-east sides of a hill, have borne the most certain and abundant crops, and we believe, as well ripened. The warm, unseasonable weather that we almost invariably have in February and March, starts the flow of sap in those vines on a southern exposure, and throws them too soon into leaf and blossom, which are almost always destroyed by the frosts in the end of April or first few days of May. So it is, too, with the peach and the early apples, etc. There is no danger of the fruit not ripening, in a northern exposure—we have rarely the slightest lack of sun and heat at that season! The hill tops are preferred, for various reasons—not the least satisfactory of which is, that it is the most profitable use to which they can be put. A moderately rich loam, on a clay subsoil, with a substratum of limestone, has always seemed to us the soil best adapted to the production of *sure crops of fruit*. In rich bottom land the vine itself grows with much greater rapidity, but the fruit is apt to mildew. Where practicable, the ground ought to be trenched with the spade, at least two spits deep—thus securing the rich surface soil at a depth which secures it from washing. If this can not be done, and the ground was not ploughed to a sufficient depth last fall, let it now be *double ploughed;* running two ploughs in the same furrow, one behind the other—and let this be done as soon as possible.

The next thing to be considered is to procure good, well-ripened, properly prepared cuttings, and *true to their kind.* On this depends the main success of the vineyard. They are formed of the wood of last season's growth, cut square immediately above and below a joint; and from fifteen to eighteen inches long. Let them be prepared before the

sap begins to flow, and buried in a cool cellar. If they have to be carried any distance, they ought to be carefully packed in moss. In the mean time let the holes be dug for their reception, 18 or 20 inches in diameter, and about the same in depth. About the middle of April, after soaking the cuttings 24 hours in a tub of rain water, plant them out, two in a hole, at opposite sides, and at such a depth as to allow two buds only to appear above ground—fill up the hole with rich, light mould; if somewhat sandy, so much the better. Tread the mould firmly at the *base* of the cutting, and moderately so along its whole length. If planted along a trellis, about five feet from plant to plant, is a good distance. If in a continued and regular vineyard, the rows may be six feet apart, and the plants three feet from each other in the row; this allows of the strawberry being cultivated between the vines, which not only keeps the soil from washing on a hill side, but will more than pay all the expense of cultivation. A row of sugar beet or of potatoes may be grown between each row, the first season.

We will return to the after treatment in a subsequent number. T. A.

For the Western Farmer and Gardener.

On Pruning young Fruit Trees.

Young trees suffer very much from inattention and bad pruning, in the early stages of their growth, which has a most injurious effect on their future condition. In pruning young trees, the principal object is to form a tree with a handsome head on a good, clean, strong stem. One common error in pruning, is to prune too close the first two years from the bud or graft;—another bad practice is not to prune at all. In the first case the common practice is, to cut off all the side branches close to the main stem, not even leaving the large leaf at the base of the branch: the error in this system is, the tree is drawn up with a long slender stem without sufficient strength to support the head to be formed the next year. The next spring the common practice is to rub off all shoots as soon as they appear, except such as are wanted to form the head, which throws all the sap into the top of the tree, causing it to form a head too large and heavy for the stem to support, greatly to the injury of the tree. In allowing trees to grow without pruning, they make much useless wood, which has to be cut away, often leaving the tree but an apology for what it would have been under good management. Trees grown in this manner seldom form handsome heads or a good leading shoot. In managing young trees, I begin to prune in the following manner: On the first rising of the sap in the spring, the first thing is to head down all trees budded the fall before, within three or four inches of the bud,* and to graft such stocks as are intended for that purpose. As soon as the buds begin to start, I look over them and rub off all shoots that appear on the stalk. As soon as the bud has grown six or eight inches, I tie it to the portion of the stalk left for that purpose. Tying the buds to the stalks protects them from being blown out by high winds, and makes them form straight stems. As the tree advances in growth, I begin to prune by cutting the side branches off at three or four inches from the main stem, being always careful not to injure the large leaf at the base of the branch. By allowing a part of the side shoot and the leaves to remain, they draw up a portion of sap, which they elaborate, and transmit woody matter into the stem, strengthening and giving it a due proportion. If a tree is pruned close to the stem, all the sap must pass into the top of the tree, to be elaborated by the leaves, the consequence is, the tree makes a head too large for the stem to support, and is liable to be bent and twisted about by every storm of wind and rain, much to its injury. The more leaves and branches a tree has the more sap it elaborates, and consequently

*The part of the stock left above the bud should be cut close to it, about the middle of August.

forms more woody matter in the stem; therefore the advantage of leaving the side shoots must be a great benefit to the tree. If the trees are intended for sale or to plant out in the fall or spring, it is a good plan to prune close to the stem, about the first of September, or as soon as the tree has finished its summer's growth; but if they are to remain in the nursery another year, it will be better to let them retain their side shoots till spring. The second year they may be pruned close to the stem, if it is of sufficient strength to support a large head; if the stem is weak and slender, it is well to leave a few side shoots on the lower part of it, but care must be taken not to let them take sap enough from the tree to impoverish the head. This can be done by keeping the shoots shortened often, and as soon as the tree has gained sufficient strength they may be cut away. I. SAYERS.

Cincinnati, March 1, 1841.

The Kitchen and Flower Garden—The Shrubbery and the Orchard.

This heading embraces a wide field, and one that can by no means be occupied in a single chapter—but the appropriate work for the month, in each department, may be treated of at sufficient length. Our readers must not expect us to inform those of them, who are altogether ignorant on this subject, of all that is necessary they should know. Let them provide themselves with some such work as McMahon's, or better still for those with small gardens—Bridgeman's Gardener's Assistant. We can only remind them of the work needful to be done iu each month, with a very short sketch of the best manner of doing it; and keep them instructed in all that is going on, in the way of improvement in the gardening world.

If the garden was not well manured and dug over during the fall or winter, let it be done now as soon as possible, but not while the ground is too wet. Leave it rough until needed, in order to expose as much surface as possible to the action of the air and frost. Prepare a few beds, in a sheltered situation, for early cabbage, lettuce, cress, radish, turnips, peas, celery, tomato, and sow them as soon as possible; some of these may require protection while severe frosts continue.

Dress beds of asparagus, rhubarb, artichoke, sea-kale, &c.

Sow full crops of onions, parsnips, carrots, asparagus, rhubarb, sea-kale, leek, parsley, salsify, spinach, &c. Plant early corn, potatoes, artichokes, rhubarb, cabbage and turnips for early greens. Make permanent asparagus beds. Towards the end of April, plant beans, cucumbers, melons, squash, inasturtiumn, beets, peas for succession, pumpkins, &c.---sow late kinds of broccoli and cauliflower, cabbage for summer use, celery for full crop, endive, and all the sweet, aromatic and medicinal herbs. Separate and transplant all kinds of perennial herb roots, such as mint, sage, &c. Besides the work of sowing and planting the various kinds of seeds above enumerated, all the strongest plants of cabbage, cauliflower, and lettuce, must be taken from the hot-beds and frames, and transplanted into the regular beds in the open garden. Attend to such other business in this department as was left undone last month, and see that the garden be kept neat and free from weeds.

THE FLOWER GARDEN.—The ground ought to have been prepared last fall; but if not, let it have a careful digging now, adding some well-rotted manure. Let it be laid out and planted with shrubbery, as taste may direct. In planting shrubs, be sure to get good plants, true to their kind; have them carefully taken up and as carefully replanted—not more than half an inch, or an inch deeper than they were before. See remarks on planting fruit trees in a former number. Sow some of the more hardy annuals towards the end of the month; and the tender, and half-hardy in pots or in a hot-bed. About the middle or end of April, plant out amaryllis formosissima, gladiolus psitacinna, tiger flowers, tuberoses, and such other bulbs as may have been preserved dry through the winter. See article on the Dahlia, and

on the cultivation of annuals. There are some annuals, which, though they should have been sown in the fall to come to full perfection, will still do well sown now.

The orchard---When those trees that require it, have not yet been pruned and cleaned, let it be done now. This is the proper season for planting all kinds of fruit trees, vines and shrubs. See article on the vine. Prune and plant currant bushes, gooseberry and Raspberry—the two former, if along the border, six feet apart; and if in a separate copartment, which is the better way, at about the same distance, that they may be tended between. The raspberry, if in a separate copartment, may be planted in rows six feet apart, and the plants two feet apart in the rows; to produce an abundance of fine fruit, they ought to be in a piece of good ground, and be well tended with the plough and hoe. There is no plant more tender or difficult to transplant than this. If taken up in a cold, dry day, and their roots exposed one hour, there is little hope of their doing well. Let them be carefully taken up, in a moist, dark day, and be immediately replanted. The Ohio ever-bearing is the finest variety; and next to it, the red Antwerp and the native purple. Grafting may now be performed with safety and success. Cuttings and suckers should be planted; as also fruit stones and kernels. See article on the strawberry. T. A.

From the Magazine of Horticulture.

On the Cultivation of the Dahlia.

Agreeable to your desire, I send you a few remarks on the cultivation of the dahlia: and, if you deem them of interest to your readers, you may insert them in your valuable Magazine.

This much esteemed flower, having been for many years a great favorite of mine, I have perhaps devoted more time to its cultivation, and had opportunities of seeing it planted in a greater variety of soils and situations than the majority of your readers; therefore, without hesitation, I give you the result of my experience.

I have invariably found the best general bloom upon those roots which were planted upon a moderately rich, sandy loam, in a cool situation—if a clay bottom, so much the more favorable—as in hot and dry situations they do not suffer so much from drought, as those planted upon a gravelly or sandy bottom.

Planting the roots upon a proper soil, near the margin of a river; or other large body of water, seems to me the best adapted to ensure a perfect bloom of this exquisitely formed flower, as the continual evaporation from the surface in warm weather, produces a humidity in the atmosphere, much more congenial to the nature of the plant, than can be accomplished by any artificial means.

I admit that cultivators may obtain some very good flowers from plantations made upon a dry, sandy soil, but neither will the flowers be as abundant, or as large as those upon plants growing on the favorable location just noticed: and, if planted upon a strong, rich soil, the cultivator will have a much more vigorous growth of plants, but with a diminished quantity of good blooms.

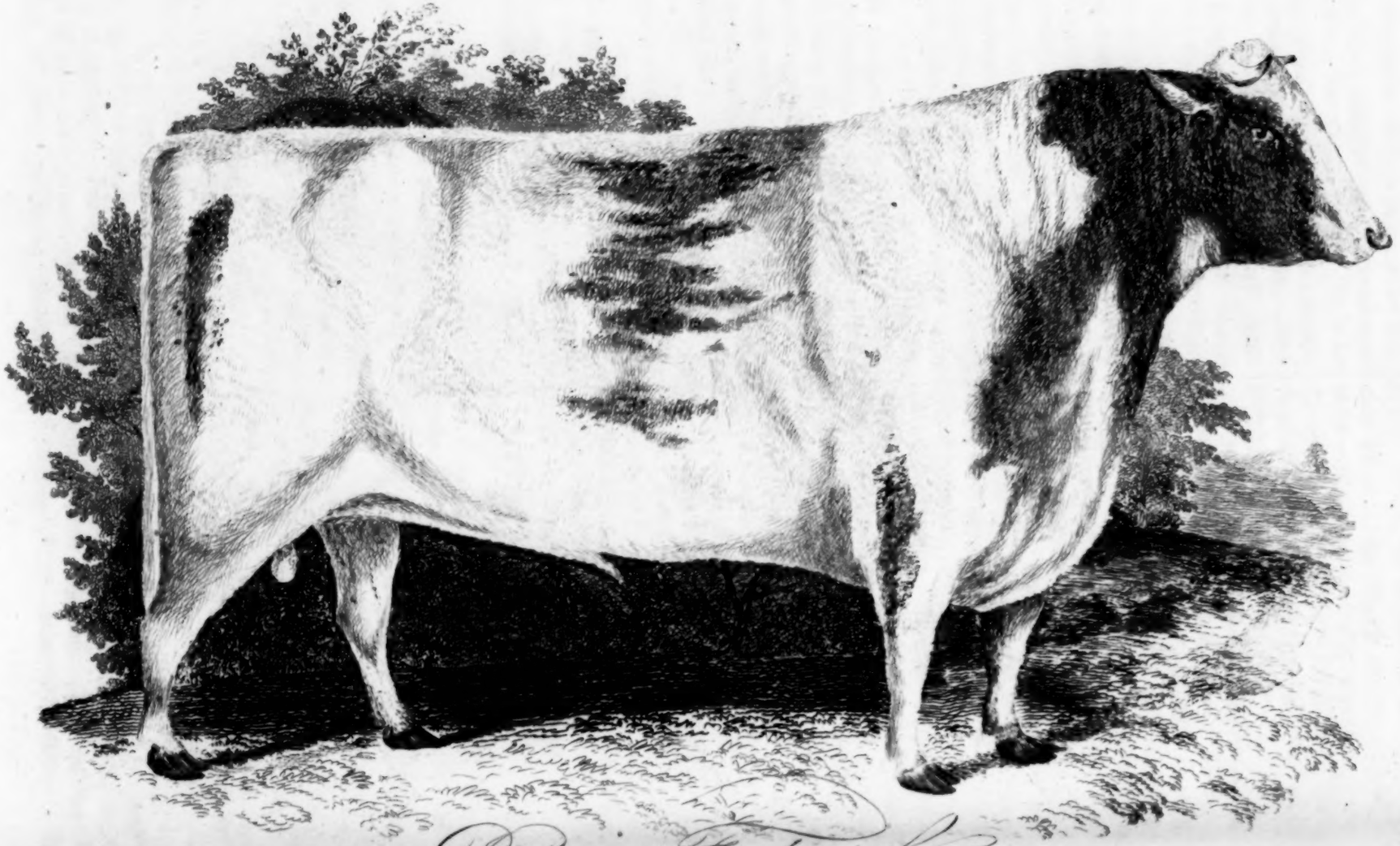
These remarks will not apply to the striped and mottled varieties, so far as regards the soil. An experiment which I tried last summer, with that novel variety, Striata formosissima, leads me to the conclusion, that to bring out the colors, the plants will do better upon a poor gravelly soil, than elsewhere. The experiment was as follows:—

No. 1, I planted in poor, gravelly soil, in an open situation, and all the flowers but two were beautifully mottled.

No. 2, I planted upon a soil, as first recommended above, and not one half of the flowers were mottled.

No. 3, Three plants, very highly enriched, and every bloom but one was *self-colored*. Yours, T. Dunlap.

Harlem, N. Y. Nov. 10, 1840.



Prince Frederick